

Message Text

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12/44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CU-04

NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01

SS-14 NSC-10 L-03 RSR-01 RSC-01 /073 W
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O 171207 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5721

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 1132

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (F O R M R N 1132 V I C E 2232)

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV PRESS ATTACKS ON EMBASSY INTERVIEWING OF
STUDENTS

AND ON VOA

REF: STATE 049543, BELGRADE 1116; JENKINS- LITTELL TELCON

1. SUMMARY: EDITIONAL INFORMATION AND QUOTES PROVIDED AS BACK-
GROUND AND FOR POSSIBLE USE IN PLANNED REPRESENTATION TO MINISTER
COUNSELOR OSOLNIK ON MARCH 19. RELEASE OF STUDENT INTERVIEW
PROTESTS

TO PRESS SUBSTANTIALLY PRIOR TO RECEIPT BY EMBASSY AND DISTORTION
OF FRAMEWORK AND QUESTIONS ALLEGEDLY ASKED WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE
PRESENCE OF LACK OF DESIRE FOR AMICABLE RESOLUTION OF ISSUE.
HOWEVER, EMBASSY REPRESENTATION TO FSFA AND SECINFO FEC MAY WELL
HAVE ACHIEVED RESULTS. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST ATTACK ON STUDENT INTERVIEWS APPEARED IN BORBA MARCH 3
WITHOUT IDENTIFICATION OF EMBASSY INVOLVED. LJUBLJANA STUDENT
UNION PROTEST DATED MARCH 9 NOT RECEIVED BY EMBASSY UNTIL MARCH 12.
MEANTIME, TANJUG/ BORBA DIRECT ATTACK ON AMERICAN EMBASSY APPEARED
MORNING MARCH 10. PROTEST OF YUGOSLAV STUDENT UNION (SSJ),
WHICH BASIS OF NATION- WIDE CAMPAIGN YESTERDAY, MARCH 16, STILL
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NOT RECEIVED BY EMBASSY. ONLY POSSIBLE CONCLUSION IS THAT SOME ELEMENT AT HIGH LEVEL IN YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT DESIRED TO EXPLOIT ISSUE FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES RATHER THAN RESOLVE MISUNDERSTANDING AND ANY PROBLEM WHICH MIGHT EXIST.

3. MOREOVER YUGOSLAV PRESS EXPLOITATION HOSTILE AND INACCURATE, DISTORTING QUESTIONS ALLEGEDLY ASKED, AS WELL AS FRAMEWORK IN WHICH PLACE. MILD NATURE OF LSU PROTEST AND EMBASSY REPLY IGNORED, AS WELL AS EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE, WITH EXCEPTION OF BRIEF REFERENCE IN NIN COVERAGE OUT TODAY.

4. NIN IS ONLY YUGOSLAV PUBLICATION WHICH DEMONSTRATED JOURNALISTIC INITIATIVE AND INTEGRITY TO INQUIRE RE AMERICAN EMBASSY POSITION. UNDER HEADING " PROVOCATION", TODAY'S ARTICLE, " AND WHAT WOULD THE CHILDREN SAY?", RECOUNTS IN SUBSTANCE PRESS STORIES REPORTED REFEELS. NIN SUIA " SHARPET PROTEST" SENT TO EMBASSY BECAUSE ITS REPRESENTATIVES ASKED " VARIOUS PROVOCATIVE AND TENDENTIOUS QUESTIONS", REPEATING PHRASES OF EARLIER PRESS STORIES EVEN THOUGH ITS REPORTER HAD EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE AND INFORMATION THAT LSU PROTEST LETTER MILD AND CONTAINED NO SUCH DESCRIPTION OF QUESTIONS ASKED. AS ONLY PUBLICATION TO DATE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT EMBASSY HAD REPLIED TO PROTEST, HOWEVER, NIN QUOTES FROM PORTIONS OF EMBASSY RELEASE AND CONCLUDES ON POSITIVE NOTE THAT IT IS "... NO DOUBT USEFUL TO FURTHER COULTIVATE AND DEVELOP MOVEMENT BETWEEN AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT TWO COUNTRIES."

5. FRONT ATTACK ON VOA APPEARED FIRST ON SERBO- CROATIAN TANJUG WIRE MARCH 15 AND CALLED TO EMBASSY ATTENTION BY AMERICAN PRESS REPS. TANJUG VERSION QUOTED BELGRADE 1097. PAO AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR URGENTLY REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS TO TAKE UP VOA ATTACK AND ESCALATION STUDENT INTERVIEWS COVERAGE WITH SECINFO FEC AND FSFA. MEETINGS THAT AFTERNOON REPORTED BELGRADE 1097, 1109. (MEETING FSFA INCORRECTLY DATED MARCH 16 IN PT. 4 BELGRADE 1097).

6. TANJUG MARCH 16 CARRIED SAME COVERAGE IN ENGLISH BULLETIN. FRONT ARTICLE APPEARED AS COVER STORY SAME DATE UNDER TITLE, " TROUBADORS" OF REACTIONARY FORCES, IN 3 - PAGE FEATURE SPREAD, FOLLOWING QUOTES ENCOMPASS ATTACK ON VOA:

THIS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN GOES SO FAR THAT THE
" VOICE OF AMERICA" FOR INSTANCE PLACES ITS " RADIO WAVES"
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AT THE DISPOSAL OF USTASHI EMIGRES SO THAT THEY
MAY DIRECT THEIR POISONOUS ARROWS AT OUR COUNTRY AND EVEN
CALL FOR DEMONSTRATIONS AND TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST
OUR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.

IT IS CHARACTERISTIC THAT RADIO MADRID, ALONG WITH " VOICE
OF AMERICA", HAS BEEN THE ONLY STATION TO OPEN ITS DOORS
WIDELY TO EXTREMIST EMIGRES, AND TOGETHER WITH IT, NOW
INSULTINGLY AND FROM A HOSTILE POSITION, COMMENTS ON
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER PROBLEMS
IN YUGOSLAVIA.

COMMENT: NO MENTION IS MADE IN ARTICLE OF CHETNIK EMIGRES, AN
ITEM GRATUITIOUSLY INTRODUCED BY TANJUG.

UNDER PICTURE OF RADIO BROADCAST TOWER, FOLLOWING ATTACK
ALSO MADE ON VOA:

AMONG THESE FACTORIES OF LIES AND SLANDER DIRECTED AT
YUGOSLAVIA, " VOICE OF AMERICA" AND RADIO MADRID ARE
ESPECIALLY ACTIVE, AS WELL AS SOME OTHERS IN WHOSE
STUDIOS SIT WHOLE STAFFS WHICH BROADCAST TENDENTIOUS
INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SITUATION WITH A VIEW AND
PRIMARY INTENTION OF INFLUENCING YUGOSLAVS WHO
TEMPORARILY LIVE AND WORK ABROAD.

7. AS INDICATED REFTELS, BOTH FSFA AND SECINFO FEC EXPRESSED
DEISRE THAT CAMPAIGN NOT DAMAGE GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.
ENCOURAGING IS FACT THAT FROM HIGH OF NATION- WIDE PRESS
COVERAGE YESTERDAY, MEDIA COVERAGE HAS TAPERED OFF ABRUPTLY
TO LIGHT COVERAGE IN EVENING PAPERS LAST NIGHT, WHICH CARRIED
ITEM ON FRONT ARTICLE BUT DID NOT MENTION VOA, AND NO
COVERAGE BY TANJUG AND CENTRAL PRESS TODAY. NIN ARTICLE OUT
TODAY IS ONLY FURT ER COVERAGE DEFINITELY KNOWN TO BE PLANNED.
TOON

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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